(c) the steps taken to check the price rise;

(d) whether there is any proposal to expand the list of essential commodities under the Essential Commodities Act; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Price Monitoring Cell is monitoring the prices of 14 essential commodities namely wheat, sugar, rice, gram dal, tur dal, mustard oil, vanaspati oil, salt, tea, milk, atta, potato, onion, ground nut oil.

(b) A comparison of average retail prices of 14 essential commodities between January to June 2006 reveal that prices of wheat, sugar, tur and gram dal had shown increasing trend across all centres which report retail prices. In case of rice, some increase in price was noticed at Delhi, Bhopal, Jaipur, Mumbai, Guwahati and Patna. As regards Mustard oil, price increased at Bhopal, Jaipur, Bhubaneshwar, Guwahati and Kolkata. As regards vanaspati oil, price rose at all centres except Aizwal and Patna. In case of tea, price increased at Delhi and Lucknow. Incase of milk, prices increased at Delhi, Lucknow, Shimla and Mumbai. in case of potato, price increased at Delhi, Lucknow, Shimla, Bhopal, Jaipur, Agartala and Kolkata. In case of salt, price increased at Lucknow, Shimla, Guwahati and Hyderabad.

(c) Government has already taken steps to arrest the increase in prices by taking measures such as augmenting domestic supplies through imports at reduced duty rates, ban on exports of pulses and sugar and regular monitoring of prices of essential commodities. Other steps taken include advice to State Governments to initiate steps to ensure availability of essential commodities at reasonable prices.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. There is no proposal for expanding the list of essential commodities under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The inclusion of any commodity depends on the demand and supply position.

Persons booked under Essential Commodities Act

450. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any person/persons have been booked under the Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of supplies of Essential Commodities Act in 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the numbers of detention orders made by the State Governments from 1998 to 2005, State-wise; and

(d) the numbers of revocations and modifications to detention orders made by the Central and State Governments during that period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) As reported by the State Governments / UT Administrations, the persons detained under the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 during the year 2006, State-wise are as under:—

Name of States	No. of detention (Upto 20.7.2006)
Gujarat	42
Tamil Nadu	13
TOTAL :	55

(c) The details of detention orders made by the State Governments during the year 1998 to 2005, State-wise are given below:—

Name of the State	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Gujarat	123	97	179	98	80	101	63	101
Assam	3	-	4	-	1	-	11	-
Tamil Nadu	3	3	28	37	17	5	1	7
Uttar Pradesh	1	-	4	7	-	1	-	-
Orissa	-	5	1	5	1	-	-	2
Maharashtra	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Madhya Pradesh	-	5	13	2	-	-	-	-
Andhra Pradesh	2	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	113	119	229	149	99	107	75	111

Other States/UTs have not reported any detention under the Act during the above period.

(d) The numbers of revocations to the detention orders made by the Central Government and State Governments as reported by them during the period (*i.e.* from 1998 to 2006) are given below:—

Year	No. of revocations by the Central Government	No. of revocations made by the State Governments
1998	6	3
1999	6	8
2000	Nil	12
2001	Nil	4
2002	Nil	3
2003	4	8
2004	1	7
2005	Nil	23
2006 (Upto 20.7.2006)	1	4

Relaxing the conditions for import

451. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to relax the conditions for import of wheat, sugar and other commodities;

(b) if so, by when such a decision was taken;

(c) the details of reasons prompting Government to take such a decision;

(d) the details of imported commodities, so far; and

(e) the impact of this decision on the prices of commodities in our local market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) In order the enable wider participation by suppliers in the global tender called for by the STC for import of 30 lakh